

## Scott Urbanowski

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Judiciary Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair Breen and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I urge the committee and the full House to pass House Bill 4003 and Senate Bill 4.

I wear many hats: I'm a devout Christian, a community leader and volunteer, a communications professional, a small business owner, and so much more. I'm also gay. I believe deep down in my soul that it wasn't I who chose to be gay - rather, I was created and chosen by God to be gay.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, in part, that LGBTQ+ people "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided."

Yet "unjust discrimination" is quite commonplace in our society. Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) still does not provide protections on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity - a fact that surprised some of the people who signed petitions that I circulated in 2020 to amend ELCRA.

Meanwhile, in recent months, some politicians in other states have introduced bills that are rooted in homophobia, transphobia, and other discriminatory attitudes. These bills have caused alarm among many of my fellow LGBTQ+ community members. They also coincide with studies that show that significant percentages of LGBTQ+ youth have considered suicide.

Discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community has serious consequences - not only for the LGBTQ+ community, but for our state, country, and world as a whole. Discrimination goes against the values that Michiganders share - values such as equality and opportunity. It goes against the tenets of so many faith traditions, including Christianity - which is why I also oppose any attempt to add purportedly "faith-based" exemptions to this legislation.

Let's make Michigan a leader in equality and opportunity by amending ELCRA to add these important protections.

Sincerely,

Scott Urbanowski (he/him/his)  
Kentwood